

6 November 2018

Ref No: OIA 003 18-19

Mr David Fisher
David.Fisher@nzherald.co.nz

Dear Mr Fisher

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 received by Defence Public Affairs on 17 September 2018. You have requested the following information and/or documents:

1. The number of those classified as Veterans, for the purposes of Veterans' Affairs, broken down by those classified as veterans with Qualifying Operational Service and those with Qualifying Routine Service;
2. Within those who have Qualifying Operational Service, a breakdown of that service by the list of qualifying operations specified here:
<https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/eligibility/qualifying-service/qualifying-operational-service/list-of-qualifying-operations/>;
3. A further breakdown of those classified as veterans with Qualifying Operational Service and those with Qualifying Routine Service by age, or year of birth;
4. The number of each of the following forms submitted to VA, by year, since the date of each of the forms' creation (which appears to be 2015/2016) but no earlier than 2013: VA01, VA01A, VA02, VA03, VA03, VA04, VA05, VA06, VA07, VA08, VA11, VA13, VA14, VA15, VA16, VA18, VA20, VA22, VA23, VA24, VA26, VA29A, VA29B, VA30, VA33, VA34, VA40, VA44, VA47, VA48, VA49, VA51, VA52, VA55.

As stated in my letter of 15 October 2018, our ability to answer your specific questions is limited by migration issues for historic data and the structure of our current records system. With that reservation, set out below are the responses to your individual questions.

1. The number of those classified as Veterans, for the purposes of Veterans' Affairs, broken down by those classified as veterans with Qualifying Operational Service and those with Qualifying Routine Service

You have already been advised (reference OIA-2017-2737), you were advised that Veterans' Affairs only hold information about veterans who have approached and are receiving support and services from us.

We are unable to provide you with an exact number of people classified as veterans and what category their qualifying service falls into. However, I can advise you we have approximately 6900 veterans with qualifying service receiving some type of monetary entitlement from Veterans' Affairs.

As at 31 August 2018 (compared to this time last year) the following entitlements were paid to veterans. It should be noted that some veterans maybe receiving dual or multiple entitlements dependant on their circumstances:

Entitlement	Sep-17	Sep-18
War Disablement Pension ¹	5851	5132
Disablement Pension ²	1441	1624
Other Entitlements	101	149
Weekly Income Compensation (Scheme One ³)	21	14
Weekly Compensation (Scheme Two ⁴)	12	29
Independence Allowance	9	38
Lump Sum Impairment	0	8

We also have 8356 service agreements in place for veterans with qualifying service under the Veterans' Independence Programme. This is a needs based programme providing assistance with the quality of living for our veterans – an individual who qualifies for assistance under this programme may receive more than one service:

Service	Oct-17	Sep-18
House wash (including external window cleaning)	2032	2550
Home help	801	1079
Medical Alarm	890	970
Lawn and Garden Services	1812	2105
Podiatry	720	1600
Receiving assistance outside these agreements	182	52

Within those who have Qualifying Operational Service, a breakdown of that service by the list of qualifying operations specified here:

<https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/eligibility/qualifying-service/qualifying-operational-service/list-of-qualifying-operations/>

We are aware that the quality of this data is limited because some data has not transferred correctly from the previous system and there are cases we know of where only one of multiple qualifying deployments are recorded in the system. We have corrected these errors as we find them. However to completely verify this information we would need to review each individual's service records.

¹ Grandparented entitlement from the War Pensions Act 1954

² Entitlement available to Scheme 1 veterans

³ Scheme One covers service pre – 1 April 1974 and Viet Nam veterans

⁴ Scheme Two covers qualifying operational service undertaken after 1 April 1974 (excluding Viet Nam service)

What we have been able to find is set out below. This data is not precise, for the reasons given, but should give some indication of the relative numbers from the qualifying deployments.

Number of Veterans broken down by Qualifying Operational Service (as 31 March 2018)			
41 Squadron RNZAF Viet Nam	3	Rhodesia (CMF)	3
Afghanistan-UNMCTT	26	Second World War	1302
Angola (UNAVEM II & III) (UNAF)	8	Service in Iraq fm 04/11/2014	1
Cambodia (CMAC)	1	Sierra Leone - UNAMSIL (UNAF)	1
Cambodia (MCTU)	1	Sinai Peninsula	1
Cambodia (UNTAC)	1	Solomon Islands	12
Cyprus (UNFICYP)	1	SPPKF in Bougainville	1
East Timor (UNAF)	115	Thai/Malay Border	315
French Testing at Mururoa	96	The Gulf Conflict (UNAF)	10
Indonesian Confrontation in Borneo	405	TMG in Bougainville	3
Iraq (From 01/09/2003)	4	UNIPOM Ind-Pakistan (UNAF)	1
J Force (Second World War)	150	UNMOGIP - Ind-Pakistan	5
Korean War (UNAF)	500	UNOSOM and UNOSOM II (Somalia)	1
KOSMED in Kosovo	1	UNPROFOR (Former Yugoslavia) (UNAF)	31
Malayan Emergency	1033	UNTSO - Based in Israel (UNAF)	3
Operation Enduring Freedom	28	Viet Nam Surgical Team (Vietnam War)	8
Operation Grapple	98	Viet Nam War	1539
PMG in Bougainville	5		

We maybe able to provide you with further electronic data relating to this information. However, we would prefer to go over this with you when we meet to ensure the data is put in context.

A further breakdown of those classified as veterans with Qualifying Operational Service and those with Qualifying Routine Service by age, or year of birth

Again, the same data quality issues apply to this data as above.

As at 31 March 2018 the age range of veterans is as follows:

Veterans & Age Range	
Total number of Veterans	6770
20-29	3
30-39	43
40-49	59
50-59	61
60-69	684
70-79	2647
80-89	1738
90+	1535
Average Age	80

The number of each of the following forms submitted to VA, by year, since the date of each of the forms' creation (which appears to be 2015/2016) but no earlier than 2013: VA01, VA01A, VA02, VA03, VA03, VA04, VA05, VA06, VA07, VA08, VA11, VA13, VA14, VA15, VA16, VA18, VA20, VA22, VA23, VA24, VA26, VA29A, VA29B, VA30, VA33, VA34, VA40, VA44, VA47, VA48, VA49, VA51, VA52, VA55

This request is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the basis this information cannot be provided without substantial collation or research. Veterans' Affairs does not keep this type of information in a central repository nor do we report on this type of information.

We did make attempts to identify this data for you; however, we were unable to do so. Our applications are uploaded into the IT system and then broken down (and reportable) from there. For example, if a VA02 – New conditions and reassessment of accepted disabilities - is received, once this is in the system we would have the capability to report on the number of individual new conditions that are being claimed for and the number of individual reassessments that are being sought.

If what you are seeking is information about the kinds of applications we receive and the volumes, we can provide some of this using a different 'categorisation' than numbers of form types received.

I regret that we are not able to respond fully to your questions, but I hope the information provided will assist you with your queries. I am happy to discuss the contents of this letter and to meet with you to see if there are other details that will assist you with your story. I understand your timetable for this work has changed, but I remain open to further discussions when your schedule allows it.

Please find my contact details set out for your reference:

Marti Eller
Deputy Head of Veterans' Affairs
Marti.Eller@nzdf.mil.nz
021 907 540

You retain the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Marti Eller', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Marti Eller
Deputy Head of Veterans' Affairs

